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SIPDIS

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STATE FOR NEA/I (KTAECKER)  
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TAGS: [UN](#) [EAID](#) [EFIN](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [NL](#)  
SUBJECT: ICI SIGNING: DUTCH LIKELY TO ATTEND BUT OFFER NO  
NEW PLEDGES

REF: A. STATE 47346

[1](#)B. 06 THE HAGUE 2424

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ACCORDINGLY.

[1](#)1. (SBU) Summary. The Dutch are committed to supporting  
Iraqi reform, economic development, and reconstruction, but  
do not plan a pledge at the International Compact with Iraq  
(ICI) signing, Dutch officials say. End Summary.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Econoff delivered on April 16 ref A demarche  
regarding support for Iraq under the ICI to Nicole Bollen,  
Coordinator of Debt Issues in the Ministry of Finance and  
also Dutch representative to the Paris Club and Chair of the  
OECD Export Credits Group, and Dirk Jan Wierenga, Iraq Desk  
Officer, Gulf States Division, North Africa and Middle East  
Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

[1](#)3. (SBU) In a subsequent discussion April 19, Wierenga, who  
wrote the decision memo for Foreign Minister Verhagen on  
Dutch participation in ICI, said his four recommendations  
were: first, that the Dutch attend ICI to show solidarity  
with the Iraqis and demonstrate GONL commitment; second,  
that the Dutch offer no new pledges but use the event to  
learn how ICI will work and how to help -- and possibly  
pledge -- in the future; third, that the Dutch continue  
their current reconstruction efforts; and lastly, that MFA  
Director for North Africa and Middle East Department  
Henriette van Lynden-Leijten lead the Dutch delegation.  
Wierenga predicted Verhagen would accept all four  
recommendations.

[1](#)4. (SBU) On possible financial support to Iraq, both  
officials confirmed GONL is already reducing Iraqi debt by 80  
percent in line with Paris Club terms and does not plan  
further reductions (ref B). The Iraqis will make their first  
payment to the Dutch in 2009, Wierenga said, and the GONL  
will re-evaluate the situation at that time. By then, debt  
relief may not be the best solution, as financing new  
activities in capacity building may be better options if the  
Iraqi budget is stable.

[1](#)5. (SBU) Wierenga said current and past reconstruction and  
assistance efforts included providing \$15 million to the  
International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq,  
providing 15 military personnel as part of a NATO training  
mission in Baghdad, and training Iraqi judges, police,

investigators, and Iraqi MFA personnel. The GONL continues to push the EU Commission to make commitments and increase its support to Iraq, he said.

ARNALL